

Political Party Affiliation I-Search paper

Goal: You will be able to vote in the next presidential election. In order to vote, you must register to vote in the county where you live (Lancaster County now). When you register, you have the opportunity to choose a political party. Your task is to decide for which political party you will register (or be independent).

Complete Due, 2009

<input type="checkbox"/>	10/07	Task one:	What do I know about political parties? Identify what I already know about political parties. Fill out sheet.
<input type="checkbox"/>	10/07	Task two:	What do I need to know in order to decide which political party (or none) I will join? What are at least 4 "burning" questions?
<input type="checkbox"/>	10/08	Task three:	What are the best places to find the information I need to answer the burning questions? Research plan sheet to research the answers to 4 of your "burning" questions. Possible sources: textbook, library, Internet, interviews, party HQ, campaign brochures.
<input type="checkbox"/>	10/13	Task four:	I am ready to make my decision. Complete the <u>voter registration form</u> .  ( <a href="http://www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/lib/voting/02_voter_registration_applications/printable_english/VoterRegistrationApp2.html">http://www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/lib/voting/02_voter_registration_applications/printable_english/VoterRegistrationApp2.html</a> )
<input type="checkbox"/>	10/19	Task five:	Why did I choose that political party (or none)? Explain your decision in a narrative paper.
			• Introduction: why is this important to me?
			• paragraphs 2-5: Answer 4 "burning" questions.
			• Conclusion: what more do I want to know and conclusion.
			• Bibliography: sources in MLA format
<input type="checkbox"/>	10/22	Task six:	Self revision and final draft

Students in computer applications classes can use this assignment as the basis of their website. The website will not be a substitute for task five/six, but can be presented to our class for extra credit.

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Task 1

What I already know about political parties:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Examples: names of political parties, their purposes, types of parties, parties in power, members of parties, etc.

This will be the basis to develop your research strategy and to form search terms for online research.

Attach additional notes if needed.

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Task 2

What questions must I have answered in order to decide which political party I prefer to join? If I can get these answered in my research, deciding will be easy.

My "burning" questions (minimum 4 questions):

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

All burning questions must be in question format (What, How, Why?)

Note: These questions are not about political parties in general. The questions are about the actual parties that citizens of Lancaster can join and will support your own political activities.

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Research plan for “burning” questions

Task 3

*at least 2 sources for each burning question*

Burning question:	
Where can I find some answers?	Type of source (book, article, Internet, interview, brochure, other)
Burning question:	
Where can I find some answers?	Explain each type of source (book, article, Internet, interview, brochure, other)
Burning question:	
Where can I find some answers?	Type of source (book, article, Internet, interview, brochure, other)
Burning question:	
Where can I find some answers?	Explain each type of source (book, article, Internet, interview, brochure, other)

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### Sample note taking sheet for Task 3

**Burning question :**  
question)

? (write the

<b>Source (citation)</b> keep one sheet for each source that you use (Interviews: name of person interviewed, title, date of interview) Author : Title of the article or book or the web address: Place of publication, Date of publication or date and time website accessed: Publisher or name of magazine or name of website: Page numbers where the information located:	
Notes from the source (underline direct quotations-their words) <b>This is where you write the information you found out</b>	Answer to the question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments</li> <li>• Reflections (what do I think about this?)</li> <li>• Conclusions (what did I find out?)</li> <li>• New Questions</li> </ul>
Empty space for notes	Empty space for answers

Use as many notes pages as necessary on each question

**Remember:** you can use what you write in the comments column both to decide your party affiliation AND as the sentences that are the basis of your report

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**Guidelines to your research activities.**

- 1) You should have at least 4 suitable “burning” questions.
- 2) Required questions:
  - What does the Republican Party believe?
  - What does the Democratic Party believe?
- 3) Other possible questions:
  - Where does the \_\_\_\_\_ Party stand on \_\_\_\_\_, an important issue for me?
  - Who are members of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party?
  - What are benefits to joining a political party?
  - What can the \_\_\_\_\_ Party do for me?
  - What is the Green Party?
- 4) Create at least 1 notes page on each question where you can write down what you find out from each research source.
- 5) Keep track of each research source you decide to use. Keep the citation with the notes.
- 6) Each question should be researched using at least 2 sources. The more sources you use the higher your grade.
- 7) Remember to gather information from Interviews and campaign materials and brochures. Ask people you respect for their answers to your burning questions. Go to political events and try to determine answers to your questions. Take notes.
- 8) You can use the same source to help answer more than one “burning” question.
- 9) Keep all your notes, handouts and these instructions together in a folder and bring them to class each day.
- 10) Keep your check list of activities to submit with the final report.

After you have started, I will review your research and the organization of your notes. I will be evaluating the work you have completed so far using the rubric on the back.
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Research evaluation

	5	4	3	2
Ideas/ Research Questions	Student independently identifies at least 4 reasonable, insightful, creative ideas/questions to pursue when doing the research.	Student independently identifies at least 4 reasonable ideas/questions to pursue when doing the research.	Student identifies, with adult help, at least 4 reasonable ideas/questions to pursue when doing the research.	Student identifies 2 reasonable ideas/questions to pursue when doing the research.
Quality of Sources	Student independently locates at least 2 reliable and interesting information sources for EACH of their ideas or questions.	Student independently locates at least 2 reliable information sources for EACH of their ideas or questions.	Student, with adult help, locates at least 2 reliable information sources for EACH of their ideas or questions.	Student locates at least 1 reliable information source for EACH of their ideas or questions.
Plan for Organizing Information	Student has developed a clear plan for organizing the information as it is gathered and in the final research product.	Student has developed a clear plan for organizing the information in the final research product.	Student has developed a clear plan for organizing the information as it is gathered.	Student has no clear plan for organizing the information AND/OR student cannot explain their organizational plan.
Information Quality	Student has taken extensive notes on each research source as well as keeping the necessary citation information.	Student has taken notes on each research source as well as keeping citation information.	Student has some notes and some citation information.	Student has not kept notes or citation information.

### Political Party Affiliation I-Search paper

Task five of the project, the first draft of the paper is due on \_\_\_\_October 19\_\_\_\_.

The paper will answer the question: why did I choose the political party to register for?

The paper will be a total of 6 paragraphs (minimum).

The paper will be organized with an introduction, conclusion and paragraphs where you answer each of your 4 “burning” questions.

**The paper will include a Works Cited or Bibliography page.**

The final paper will be typed in 12pt with 1” margins, double spaced.

Task six final draft is due on October 22

CATEGORY	5	4	3	2
Quality of Information	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1-2 supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples are given.	Information has little or nothing to do with the main topic.
Paragraph Construction	All paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, and concluding sentence.	Most paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, and concluding sentence.	Paragraphs included related information but were typically not constructed well.	Paragraphing structure was not clear and sentences were not typically related within the paragraphs.
Amount of Information	All 4 “burning” questions are addressed and all questions answered with at least 4 sentences about each.	All 4 “burning” questions are addressed and all questions answered with at least 2 sentences about each.	All 4 “burning” questions are addressed, and most questions answered with 2 sentences about each.	One or more “burning” questions were not addressed.
Content	Topic is addressed critically from the perspective that evaluates the role of a political party in personal voting decisions.	Topic is addressed from the perspective that examines the role of a political party in personal voting decisions.	Topic is addressed from the perspective considers the role of a political party in personal voting decisions.	Topic is addressed from a general perspective.
Required Elements	The paper includes all required elements as well as additional information.	All required elements are included in the paper.	All but 1 of the required elements are included in the paper.	Several required elements were missing.
Sources (Works Cited)	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented in the desired format.	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format.	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but many are not in the desired format	Some sources are not accurately documented



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Editor's Checklist

Peer Editor	Self Editor	
		1. Circle words you are not sure are spelled correctly. Write the correct spelling in left margin if you know it.
		2. All sentences have a verb (action or linking word). Mark sentences in left margin to indicate a change.
		3. All sentences begin with a capital letter and end with end punctuation. Mark sentences in left margin to indicate a change.
		4. The paper states clearly which political party (or no affiliation) the author will or has registered for.
		5. The paper includes an introduction which answers the questions: Why did the author choose that political party (or no affiliation)? What did the author think of the experience of choosing a political party?
		6. The paper answers 4 questions that support the decision why the author chose the party (or none).
		7. The paper answers a question about what the Republican Party believes.
		8. The paper answers a question about what the Democratic Party believes.
		9. The paper contains a conclusion and answers the question: What more does the author need to know?
		10. The author has research to support the answer to each of the 4 questions AND contains a Works Cited page.
		11. The first draft of the paper has been evaluated according to the rubric on the back of this page.

Peer editor: \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Self-Editor: \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Editor: \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(extra credit)

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Political Party Affiliation I-Search paper

Submission checklist (due with paper)

Please assemble your packet in the following order starting with the top page and going towards the back. Remove all previous staples and staple all pages in left hand corner when submitting. You may also use a report cover.

<u>included</u>			
	1. This sheet		
	2. The evaluation rubric for the paper (first item evaluates the "Quality of Information").		
	3. Your final draft of the paper.		
	4. Editor's check list		
	5. Voter's registration form completed.		
	6. Goal page of the project with the schedule and original due dates.		
	7. Research evaluation rubric.		
	Total		

Every research paper must have a "Works Cited" page where every resource that you used is listed so that the reader can check information. According the MLA format, the page should have all your resources listed alphabetically by author, then title.

Since most research for this project will have been either interviews or electronically (web), below is the format for each type of entry.

For electronic sources

Name of Site. Date of Posting/Revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sometimes found in copyright statements). Date you accessed the site [electronic address].

example:

GOP.COM. 1 October, 2007. Republican National Committee. 10 October, 2007  
<http://www.gop.com/media/2004platform.pdf>

For interviews:

Person interviewed. Personal Interview. Date of interview.

example:

Weidemoyer, Mr. Personal Interview. 5 October, 2007.

For articles:

Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Periodical Day Month Year: pages.

example:

Hawkes, Jeff. "What we know about the Democrats of Lancaster." Lancaster Intelligencer Journal. 3 October, 2007: page B1.

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Works Cited

GOP.COM. 1 October, 2007. Republican National Committee. 10 October, 2007  
<http://www.gop.com/media/2004platform.pdf>

Hawkes, Jeff. "What we know about the Democrats of Lancaster." Lancaster Intelligencer Journal. 3 October, 2007: page B1.

PADEMS.COM 3 October, 2007. Pennsylvania Democratic Party. 9 October, 2007  
<http://padems.com/about>

Weidemoyer, Mr. Personal Interview. 5 October, 2007.

### Oral Presentation Rubric

Topic: Why I chose to register for a political party.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	5	4	3	1
Preparedness	Student is completely prepared and has obviously rehearsed.	Student is adequately prepared.	The student is somewhat prepared, but it is clear that rehearsal was lacking.	Student does not seem at all prepared to present.
Comprehension	Student is able to accurately answer almost all questions posed by classmates about the topic.	Student is able to accurately answer most questions posed by classmates about the topic.	Student is able to accurately answer a few questions posed by classmates about the topic.	Student is unable to accurately answer questions posed by classmates about the topic.

Total score \_\_\_\_\_

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RubiStar ( <http://rubistar.4teachers.org> )

**Reflection**

Do not write “time” in any of your responses. There is never enough of it!

What did you like about this assignment?	What did you learn from this assignment?
What did you not like about this assignment?	If you had the opportunity to do this assignment over again, what would you do differently?